

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USAREUR HEIDELBE*G

EUCOM STUTTGART

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FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: FDP LAND CONVENTION IN STUTTGART JANUARY

REF: STUTTGART 'S 1062

1. SUMMARY. TRADITIONAL EPIPHANY CONVENTION OF
BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP RAN AN OBVIOUSLY PRE-ARRANGED
COURSE AND DELT ONLY WITH PERSONELL QUESTIONS, NO
ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE. SLATE PUT FORWARD BY EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE ELECTED. NEW CHAIRMAN IS BUNDESTAG DEPUTY
MARTIN BANGEMANN, AGE 39. THREE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN
ARE BUNDESTAG DEPUTY GEORG GALLUS . 46, KLAUS
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ROESCH , 32, FORMER B-W JUNGDEMOKRATEN CHAIRMAN,

AND LANDTAG DEPUTY HINRICH ENDERLEIN , 32. RETIRING CHAIRMAN STATE SECRETARY KARL MOERSCH, REMAINS ON LAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WITH CHANGES, 13 MEMBERS OF NEW 24 MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE IDENTIFIED WITH "PROGRESSIVE" WING. TRANSITION COMPLETES TREND AWAY FROM "OLD LIBERALS" BEGUN 4 YEARS AGO, MAKES LOCAL LEADERSHIP MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHANGES IN STRUCTURE PARTY RANK AND FILE, AND BRINGS B-W GROUP BELATEDLY INTO CLOSER CONFORMITY WITH COMPLEXION OF FDP IN OTHER PARTS OF GERMANY. CHANCES FOR B-W FDP COALESCING WITH CDU IN 1976 PROPORTIONATELY REDUCED. END SUMMARY.

2. REPLACEMENT OF RECENTLY RESIGNED LAND CHAIRMAN MOERSCH (SEE REFTEL) BY BANGEMANN TOOK PLACE QUIETLY AND WITHOUT OPPOSITION AT THE ANNUAL FDP MEETING IN STUTTGART. ABOUT 15 PER CENT OF THE DELEGATES EXPRESSED OPPOSITION BY VOTING NO. NEW DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GALLUS FARED ABOUT THE SAME. SOME TOKEN OPPOSITION TO ROESCH AND ENDERLEIN SPROUTED UP AT THE LAST MINUTE, BUT WAS DISORGANIZED AND INEFFECTIVE.

3. PARTY LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHED GOAL OF ELECTING NEW CHAIRMAN AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT POLICY STATEMENT AT THIS TIME. PRESENTATIONS OF CANDIDATES AND NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS (FRIDERICH AND MAIHOFFER) KEPT NON- CONTROVERSIAL, AND NO REFERENCE MADE TO RECENT CHANGES BY SPD (KUEHN). THERE WAS OPEN ASSUMPTION THAT GENSCHER , WHO ATTENDED BUT DID NOT SPEAK, WILL SUCCEED SCHEEL BOTH AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AS NATIONAL PARTY CHAIRMAN.

4. DURING LUNCHEON WITH CONGEN OFFICERS DAY AFTER CONVENTION, MOERSCH WAS RELAXED AND CHEERFUL. HE CONFIDED THAT HIS RESIGNATION DUE PRIMARILY TO HEART CONDITION WHICH NOT SERIOUS BUT REQUIRES REDUCED WORK LOAD. HE SAID COURSE OF PARTY IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED IN SPITE OF CONSIDERABLE PRESS COMMENT ON BANGEMANN'S "LEFTIST" TENDENCIES. THE NEW CHAIRMAN AND HIS DEPUTIES ARE ABLE AND RELISTIC MEN. BUT MOERSCH WAS CAUTIOUS IN ESTIMATING CHANCES OF SPD AND FDP OUSTING FILBINGER. UNDER THE NEW LEADERSHIP, MOERSCH CONFIRMED BANGEMANN AND GALLUS WILL SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME IN BONN (A CAUSE OF MUCH LOCAL CRITICISM AGAINST MOERSCH HIMSELF, AND A FAULT BANGEMANN PUBLICLY PROMISED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO AVOID), WHILE ROESCH, PRIMARILY, AND ENDERLEIN, IN LANDTAG, CONCENTRATE ON GRASS- ROOTS UP- GRADING OF THE PARTY WHICH LACKS GOOD SECRETARIAT AND COUNTRY AND CITY MUCLEI. MOERSCH HAD SPECIAL PRAISE FOR ROESCH'S ABILITY AS AN ORGANIZER ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND EXPECTS HIM TO ACCOMPLISH A GREAT DEAL SINCE HE IS A WEALTHY MAN AND WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE HIMSELF FULL TIME TO HIS NEW DUTIES.

5. COMMENT: PROSPECTS OF A COALITION OF FDP AND CDU IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AFTER THE NEXT LANDTAG ELECTION IN 1976 HAVE NOT BEEN ENHANCED BY EMERGENCE OF BANGEMANN TEAM. WE SPECULATE HIGHER LEVELS OF THE PARTY MIGHT HAVE ENCOURAGED THE BANGEMANN GROUP PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY ARE BOTH BITTER CRITICS OF FILBINGER AND ARE ORIENTED TOWARD FEDERAL RATHER THAN LAND POLITICS. WHILE BANGEMANN IS NOT EXTREME AND HIS VIEWS ARE WELL WITHIN SPECTRUM OF FDP ON NATIONAL LEVEL, HE APPEARS "LEFTISH" IN THIS CONSERVATIVE CORNER OF FRG. CDU VOTERS (AND SOME FROM SPD) CONSIDER HIM RADICAL. ROESCH APPEARS EVEN MORE CONTROVERSIAL. MOST VOTES NEW LEADERSHIP GAINS FOR FDP WOULD, IN TODAY'S TERMS, BE AT EXPENSE OF SPD MOREOVER, "LEFTISH" IMAGE WEAKENS SURPRISINGLY LOYAL, REMAINING "OLD LIBERALS". THEREFORE, 1974 WILL BE TRIAL YEAR FOR NEW LEADERS. BANGEMANN AND ROESCH TOLD CONGEN OFFICER THAT RULE OF POLITICS IS "WINNING TEAM SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN UP". WE ANTICIPATE THEY WILL PURSUE ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS WITH VIGOR, BUT SHARE MOERSCH'S VIEW THAT DEAFING FILBRINGER WILL TAKE MORE THAN BANGEMANN AND ERHARD EPPLER (SPD) COULD ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER.

BANGEMANN IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S., BUT NOT AN UNQUESTIONING SUPPORTER OF ALL OUR FOREIGN POLICIES. ROESCH AND ENDERLEIN WERE SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF THE U.S. DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. RUCHTI

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